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MIDNIGHT ENDS WATER FREEDOM

German Submarine Blockade of
British Isles Soon
In Effect.

VESSELS DISPLAY NAMES

Neutral Ships Continue Sailing,
Hope They Will Not be Sunk
By Mistake.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—An airship believed to be of the paratype type, apparently damaged by gunfire, flew over Amsterdam early today, says a Reuter dispatch from that city. The airship was flying at a height of 600 feet and its crew was unable to keep the vessel in a horizontal position. Assuming a vertical position, the aircraft drifted in the direction of the Zuyder Zee, an arm of the North sea, carrying with it telegraph wires with which a dangling rope had become entangled. The air vessel was later sighted, minus its gondola.

SALONIKI, Greece, via London, Feb. 17.—All Albania attacks on Serbia have been defeated according to dependable information reaching this city and thrown across the Serbia frontier. Serbia has decided to follow these raiders up, the same dispatches say, and occupy several Albanian towns with the view of securing her frontier against further violations.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—At the stroke of midnight the waters surrounding the coasts of the United Kingdom will become so far as lies within the power of Germany to make them, a war zone, which will include neutral or otherwise, will penetrate at their peril.

Some of the services across the channel probably will be curtailed, but a majority of the neutral shipping lines will accept the risk and continue their sailings. The names and nationality of the vessels and the names of their nations will be painted on their sides in the hope that German submarines will not sink them by mistake.

England's announcement of details of her proposed retaliatory policy by which she plans to shut off the German food supply from the outside is expected momentarily, and apparently there is not the slightest prospect that (Continued on Last Page.)

FOOD SITUATION NOT VERY CLEAR

In Letter to Mayor Mitchell, President
Wilson Says Erroneous Impression
Has Grown Up In Country.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—President Wilson declared today he believes an erroneous impression had grown up concerning the food supply in the United States. In a letter to Mayor Mitchell of New York, replying to a suggestion that an embargo be placed by the federal government on exports of wheat, the president wrote that in the near future the administration would give out a statement showing the exact situation. The president thanked Mayor Mitchell for his letter and for the report of the food committee, headed by George W. Perkins, in which it was suggested that the amount of wheat now in the United States as compared with the amount on hand a year ago be made public.

The matter is one to which the administration has, of course, from the first given the most thoughtful attention, wrote the president. The agricultural department is in possession of all the facts. About these facts some very erroneous impressions obtain, and it is our purpose in the immediate future to remove these misunderstandings by a very full and clear statement of all the facts. They will, I think, reassure the country.

Mayor Mitchell's letter has been referred to Secretary Houston and a thorough investigation is now being made. It is understood that the position of the president that he has no authority to declare an embargo on the exportation of foodstuffs, even if such a step were considered wise.

TARIFFS THROWN OUT

Kansas City Stockyards Company
Held to Be Not Common Carrier,
Is a Public Utility.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The Interstate commerce commission today threw out a tariff filed by the Kansas City Stockyards company to impose a trucking charge of 75 cents a car at unloading docks in its yards and a switching charge of \$2 per car on eight of the fourteen railroads serving Kansas City. The commission held that the stockyards company was not a common carrier, and said: "The commission is empowered to strike a tariff from its files if filed as part of a scheme by shippers to secure unlawful allowances from carriers under pretense of common carriage."

The opinion declared, however, that the complaining railroads may compel the stockyards company to pay for the services in question "even though shippers of live stock participate in the stock yards company's dividends."

DANCING INNOVATION

First of a Series of Weekly "Subscription
Assemblies" Will Be Held at
Musical Art Institute Tonight.

"Subscription assembly," a dancing innovation, has been announced by Mrs. Dorothy Reid, Oklahoma City's pioneer dancing teacher. Beginning tonight at 8 o'clock the first weekly subscription assembly for the pupils, friends and patrons of Mrs. Reid's dancing classes will be held at the Musical Art Institute.

It is the plan of Mrs. Reid to hold these dances weekly and make them the most enjoyable of any dancing events in the city. All dances will be those which have been taught by Mrs. Reid and are recognized as standard by the dancing masters of the country.

PRODUCTS FROM ENEMIES
NOT ALLOWED IN GERMANY

LONDON, Feb. 17.—The Bundesrat's authorization to the chancellor to prohibit the importation and transit of the products of hostile soil and industry across the German frontier is published in today's edition of the Reichs Anzeiger, says an Amsterdam dispatch. The chancellor is authorized to take whatever measures may be necessary to enforce the prohibition.

The ground for this authorization is another proclamation which prohibits the importation and transit of several products mentioned from France and Great Britain, their colonies and protectorates. The proclamation mentions such of these products as:

WELCH PROBE WILL CONTINUE

Investigating Committee Held Meeting
Today and Decided to Go On With
the Insurance Inquiry.

The probe of State Insurance Commissioner A. L. Welch will continue. This was the substance of a decision reached at an executive session of the committee this morning at which it was discussed whether the examination of witnesses should stop and the evidence now in hand be taken under consideration or whether the hearings should go on.

The committee decided not to go into the evidence already taken until further witnesses are examined. The committee will hold another public hearing at 9 o'clock Friday morning at which more testimony will be taken.

It is said that former Attorney General West may be called as a witness against Welch, also that other letters which are alleged to have a bearing on the case may be introduced.

The senate placed on the calendar a bill by Senator J. Elmer Thomas which amends the present law so that sheriffs transporting prisoners to the penal institutions and asylums are to have their expenses paid by the county from which persons were taken instead of from the state.

The senate also voted to place on the calendar a bill by Senator Russell which permits the making of contracts for public printing at less than the legal rate.

Representative Durant introduced into the house a bill prescribing it venue fees for hotels, rooming houses, restaurants, drug stores, grocery stores and many other classes of business. The bill is backed by the state health department and is intended to aid in the fight against venereal disease.

A MILLION IS SAVED

Fit. Worth Man Tells Chicago Convention
of Value of Arsenical Solution
Baths For Cattle.

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—Methods of combating parasites which otherwise might decimate western herds were discussed today at the convention of the United States Livestock Sanitary association.

"Bathing Texas steers in an arsenical solution once every eighteen days," said W. A. Wallace of Fort Worth, Tex., has resulted in increasing the value of the cattle \$1,000,000 annually. The steers can stand the bath, but the tick which formerly caused enormous losses to Texas cattlemen succumb to the treatment, if it is applied often enough."

"Farm sanitation" was the subject of an address by L. A. Warner of Chicago.

BOLTERS REFUSE NEW SHIP BILL

Progressive Republicans Also Will Not
Support Measure That Passed
House; Leaders Are Embarrassed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Democrats got another setback in their fight for President Wilson's ship bill when they suddenly learned today that the bill as it passed the house last night will not command the support of Senators Kenyon, Morris, or La Follette, progressive Republicans, on whom they counted, nor the support of any of the seven insurgents of their own party.

The plan to move to conciliate with the house amendments was wrecked by the discovery that the leaders could not muster enough votes. Administration leaders made no attempt to conceal their embarrassment and planned to send the bill to conference with the hope of putting on some amendment to command support. The bolting Democrats were said to be favorable to an amendment to make the enterprise a temporary one to end with the European war.

JAPAN DEMANDS MUCH CHANGED

Memorandum Presented to Powers
Different From One
Made To China.

ALL PROPOSALS REJECTED

Republic Greatly Worried; Fear
For Sovereignty and Future
Of Nation.

PEKING, Feb. 17.—If information from presumably well informed sources, both foreign and Chinese is correct, the memorandum recently given by the Japanese legation to the diplomatic representatives here of the United States, Great Britain, France and Russia respecting the demands of the Tokyo government on China omits certain of the requirements originally presented to Peking.

The negotiations, which began late in January, had for their subject the determination of the future status of Japanese relations with China and a decision respecting certain questions regarding the future development of the Chinese republic. Their course has been guided with great secrecy.

Peking Refuses.

The Peking government did not conceal its concern of the situation thus brought about and on February 16 Sun Pao-chi, the Chinese foreign secretary in conference with the Japanese minister at Peking rejected Japan's proposals on the ground that they were incompatible with China's sovereignty and conflicted with existing treaties between China and other foreign powers.

The Japanese minister then asked for an acceptance in principle stating the detailed negotiations could be conducted later, but the Peking government returned the same answer as to the principles involved.

The original demands, according to information from Peking sources, were 21 in number and were far reaching both in their political and commercial aspects. But it is not known whether the original demands were made orally or in a formal written communication.

Eleven Demands.

The memorandum as handed to the legation of the United States, Great Britain, France and Russia, is understood to contain only eleven demands substantially as follows:

(Continued on Last Page.)

GRAIN HEARING IS CONTINUED

Two Chicago Wheat Dealers Expected
to Testify Are Missing; Produce
Statistician a Witness.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—On the resumption of the state investigation into the cost of wheat and bread, it was announced that two of the Chicago wheat dealers who had expressed a willingness to appear at the hearing had disappeared from Chicago and that the direction in which they were traveling was not ascertained.

An attaché of the attorney general's office said that James A. Patten was not one of the men. Among the Chicago grain dealers expected to appear at the hearing are J. Ogden Armour, George Marcy, president of the Armour Grain company, and C. H. Canby, president of the Chicago Board of Trade.

The first witness today was Henry Helmer, chief statistician of the New York Produce Exchange. When the hearing began several of the witnesses called for today were absent and process servers were sent after them.

Mr. Helmer said it was estimated the wheat now on hand in the United States was 396,857,000 bushels. At the present rate of consumption, he said, 123,000,000 bushels of this might be exported without causing a shortage at home and a surplus of 25,000,000 bushels would still be left on hand July 1 next. Approximately 305,350,000 bushels of the 1914 crop of 967,000,000 bushels had been used in home consumption, the witness said and 247,000,000 bushels had been exported up to date.

WHEAT PRICES DROP

Fear for Shipping Results in No Ex-
port Demand and the Break Is
Started.

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—Increasing apprehension as to vessel risks in the war zone largely brought about a serious fall today in the value of wheat. Export demand seemed temporarily to have made almost a complete stop and there was a corresponding disposition toward liquidation sales on the part of the speculative holders.

As much as 5 cents a bushel was cut from the price of July delivery in which trading chiefly centered that month dropping to 131 1/2 as against 136 3/8 at 12 last night.

Before the descent ended, losses amounted to more than six cents a bushel, July having touched \$1.80 1/4. Word that the big break in prices had led exporters to renewed willingness at taking chances with trans-Atlantic cargoes, induced something of a rally in the final dealings here. The market closed nervous at 134 1/4 to 144 3/8 at 3:30 under last night.

Day In Congress.

SENATE.
Administration ship bill, in its new form came from the house and awaited action.

Bernard N. Baker, steamship manager, testified before committee hours, charging of influence in connection with ship bill.

HOUSE.
Efforts to bring up pension bill defeated and bills considered under the calendar Wednesday rule.

HAS CREWS OF SHIPS

German Steamer Holger Sighted With
British War Steamers Sunk By
Warship Off Brazil Coast.

BUENOS AYRES, Argentina, Feb. 17.—It is reported here today from reliable sources that the German steamer Holger was sighted yesterday heading for Buenos Ayres and having on board the crews of several English steamers sent to the bottom by some German warship, probably off the coast of Brazil.

The steamer Holger has been identified with German activities in the South Atlantic. She left the harbor of Pernambuco secretly early in January, presumably with the supplies for German warships at large in South American waters. The Brazilian government published the report officials whose negligence made this breach of neutrality possible.

War at a Glance

Heating fighting is now under way to France and Belgium. The German war office asserts that attacks undertaken by the British and French at many places were repulsed. It is stated also that an advance was made in the Argonne, but the announcement of the French war office says the German onslaught in this region was driven back.

The London report that a British prize crew had been put aboard the American steamer Wilhelmus proved to be incorrect. The British officers and men who boarded the ship were described today as "a guard."

The German war office announced today that in the recent defeat of the Russians in the Mazurian lakes region of east Prussia more than 60,000 prisoners were taken. The invaders, it is said, were "utterly defeated at most points," only remnants of the Russian army escaping after a battle of nine days. An earlier official German statement said that 26,000 Russians had been captured.

The Russian army also other end of the eastern front also is in danger, according to the correspondent of the Berlin newspaper, who states that the force which penetrated Bukovina has been enveloped by Austro-Hungarian troops. A general battle is believed to be pending near Czernowitz.

Germany's reply to the American note concerning the rights of American vessels in the war zone which the Berlin government announced will be established around the British Isles was delivered to Ambassador Gerard who forwarded it to Washington.

Another British vessel has been sunk by a German submarine. It became known today that the collier Dulwich which went down yesterday in the English channel was torpedoed.

An Athens dispatch states that a formidable army has been assembled for a new campaign against Serbia. This army is described as amounting to 450,000 men, made up in part of Germans. The army which Serbia now has in the field is estimated at about one-half this size.

BIGGEST GAS WELL IN OKLAHOMA OPENS NEW POOL

RINGLING, Ok., Feb. 17.—The gas well belonging to J. L. Hamon of this city, and Charles Colcord of Oklahoma City, has increased its production and by government gauge is now making 50,000,000 feet a day and is the biggest gas well in Oklahoma.

The well is to the southeast of the old pool and old men state without reserve that it means a new pool and probably a bigger one than Healdton has proven to be.

MAIZE NOW UNDER CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT SAYS REPORT

LONDON, Feb. 17.—An official decree extending to Malae, the government's right of requisition has been published in Official Gazette at Budapest according to a Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam.

THE WEATHER

Washington Forecast.
Oklahoma—Cloudy, warmer; Thursday unsettled, colder in northwest portion. Louisiana—Tonight and Thursday increasing cloudiness; warmer in east portion. Arkansas—Tonight and Thursday increasing cloudiness; warmer in eastern portion. Texas—Tonight cloudy, warmer; Thursday unsettled.

West Texas—Tonight and Thursday unsettled, warmer; tonight in east portion.

Unsettled and generally cloudy weather tonight and Thursday, somewhat warmer tonight and colder Thursday.

8 a. m. 45
9 a. m. 45
10 a. m. 44
11 a. m. 44
12 noon 44
1 p. m. 45
2 p. m. 46
3 p. m. 46
The low pressure area that was central off the north Pacific coast Thursday morning has moved over the Canadian Provinces. The center of the disturbance is moving eastward over the Canadian Provinces. Fair weather has prevailed in the plains states, central valleys and eastern districts, except that rain has fallen in the south Atlantic states. Moderate thermal conditions obtain throughout the entire United States. Conditions are becoming unsettled in the plains states with the advance of the western "low."

FIGHT BREWING ON INSURANCE

Maxey Measure Would Strip
the Commissioner of Nearly
All His Power.

SUTHERLIN BILL OPPOSITE

Rule Books Delivered to Senate
Are Sticky and Contain
Many Mistakes.

Two insurance bills, proposing revision of fire and life insurance laws, will be presented to the senate for consideration, according to a vote taken this morning. The senate committee on insurance reported favorably the Maxey bill from the house on this subject. Senator Franklin of Purdue offered a substitute bill which is said to represent some of the ideas of the insurance commissioner and asked that it be printed together with the Maxey bill measure. The senate adopted his request.

The Maxey bill, favored by the majority of the committee, is practically as it came from the house, providing for a state insurance board composed of the insurance commissioner, state fire marshal and state banking commissioner. The bill not only gives the board supervision over certain classes of insurance rates, but over making regulations for insurance companies and licensing agents, thus taking away much of the power the insurance commissioner already possesses. The bill proposed by Senator Franklin as a substitute for the house measure provides for a state insurance board, composed of the insurance commissioner as chairman, the state fire marshal and a secretary, to be appointed by the governor, the secretary to have his office with the insurance commissioner. The Franklin bill also cuts out all the sections of the original house bill which transferred the power of issuing licenses and regulating companies from the hands of the insurance commissioner to those of the board.

Rule Books Rejected.

The now famous red Morocco bound rules of the senate met their Waterloo this morning when the senate adopted a motion by Sutherland of Wagner to return the books to the printer without paying for them. The rule books were printed by the Harlow-Railiff Printing company of this city.

"These rule books instead of be-"
(Continued on Last Page.)

KAISER WATCHED GREAT VICTORY

Berlin Official Statement Says 50,000
Russian Prisoners Were Taken Under
Emperor's Eyes.

BERLIN, by wireless to London, Feb. 17.—Fifty thousand prisoners besides many cannon and machine guns were captured by the Germans when the Russian tenth army was defeated in the Mazurian Lake district, East Prussia, according to a statement issued at general quarters today. The text of the communication follows:

"In a nine day's battle in the Mazurian lakes district the Russian tenth army, consisting of at least eleven infantry and several cavalry divisions, not only was driven out of strongly entrenched positions east of the Mazurian lake plateau but was forced back across the frontier."

"Utterly defeated at almost every point only the remnants of the army managed to reach the woods east of Suwalki and Augustow, where they are being pursued. The number of prisoners taken has not been ascertained, but certainly exceeded 50,000. More than fifty cannon and sixty machine guns besides an unknown quantity of war material, were captured."

"Emperor William was present during the decisive fighting in the center of our lines. The victory was won by veteran East Prussian troops assisted by other troops who were young for such work, but proved their worth. The achievements of these troops under fearful weather conditions, marching by day and night and fighting against such a stubborn enemy are beyond all praise."

TWO SHIPPING LINES WILL DISCONTINUE SERVICE

LONDON, Feb. 17.—The Exchange Telegraph company's Amsterdam correspondent is authority for the statement that the Batavia and Zealand shipping lines and services between Folkestone and Flushing will be suspended for a few days after February 18, the date on which Germany announced its determination to begin a blockade of British waters.

CELEBRATE TREATY OF GHENT IN VIRGINIA; OFFICES CLOSE

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 17.—By proclamation of the governor and the mayor Virginia and Richmond are celebrating by state and civic holidays the hundredth anniversary of the treaty of Ghent, by which peace was fixed between Great Britain and the United States. All public offices are closed.

AMERICANS BUYING WOOL AT MELBOURNE MORE FREELY

MELBOURNE, via London, Feb. 17.—Wool sales have yielded to an improved demand. Americans are buying more freely than before the re-imposition of the embargo on exports.

ANGRY AT SOCIALISTS

Attendance of Two Members of French
Cabinet at London Meeting Arouses
Indignation of Press.

PARIS, Feb. 17.—The action of two Socialist members of the French cabinet, Jules Guesde, minister without portfolio, and Marcel Renard, minister of public works, in attending the recent international socialist conference in London, has provoked protest from a large section of the French press, which makes the declaration that this conference was inspired by the German Social Democratic party. Senator Gaudin de Villaine has written a letter to Premier Viviani announcing that unless the government publicly disavows these two Socialist ministers before next Thursday he will present an interpellation on the subject in the senate.

FORTIFICATIONS GIFT BILL

NOW READY FOR THE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The fortifications appropriations bill carrying approximately \$5,000,000 virtually was ready to be reported to the house today from committee. The measure is the last one of the annual supply bills to come before the house. Only the general deficiency bill now remains in committee.

Of the 15 annual supply bills, 12 have been reported by the house and 10 have been passed and sent to the senate. Only two bills, the District of Columbia and the urgent deficiency, have passed the senate and the latter is the only measure thus far signed by President Wilson. The district bill now being in conference.

GERMANS SINK A BRITISH SHIP

Submarine Torpedoes Dulwich; Fate
of Two of Crew Is Unknown; Diver
Watches Victims.

HAVRE, via Paris, Feb. 17.—The British steam collier Dulwich, from La Rochelle, was torpedoed by a German submarine twenty miles northwest of Cape la Hève, at 6 o'clock last night. The torpedo struck the middle starboard side.

As the crew took to the boats, the submarine which torpedoed the ship was seen speeding away. The Dulwich sank in twenty minutes.

Twenty-two members of the crew of 31 men were picked up by the French destroyer Arquebuse and brought to Havre. Seven others rowed to Fe camp.

The fate of the other two is unknown.

A dispatch from London last night stated that Lloyd's had received information from Fe camp, France, that the Dulwich had been blown up. This information was brought ashore by seven men of the crew who rowed to land. The Dulwich was a vessel of 3,280 tons owned by the British Steamship company.

The weather was clear but a heavy sea was running when the Dulwich was blown up. The torpedo struck under the water line and the explosion which followed was terrific.

The ship began to settle immediately and a hasty examination showed Captain Hucker his vessel would keep afloat only a few minutes. His first concern, therefore, was to assure the safety of his men. He ordered the boats launched as quickly as possible, the sailors thrived in without taking time to save their personal belongings.

While pulling toward the French coast, seeking a ship which might rescue them, the crew of the Dulwich saw the submarine rise to the surface several times as if watching them and then disappear again.

BILL PROVIDES FOR WIVES
AND CHILDREN IN INDIANA

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 17.—Indiana husbands who neglect to support their wives or children will be arrested, fined any sum less than \$500 or sentenced to jail for sixty days, if a bill which passed unanimously in the state senate yesterday becomes a law. Wages earned by guilty husbands on public work during their imprisonment would be given to their wives or children.

SWISS BUYING GOOD HORSES

IN MARKETS IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—Representatives of the Swiss government have spent more than \$200,000 for horses in the Chicago market. It was learned today, and are seeking more mounts of exceptional quality.

POSSEE CHASING BAND OF BRAVES

Two-Go-Gat and Indian Friends En-
trench to Resist Arrest; Frontiers-
men on Trail.

DENVER, Colo., Feb. 17.—News arrived from Cortez, Colo., stated that recently frontiersmen under command of A. N. Gingles, a veteran Indian fighter left there today for Bluff, Utah, to capture Two-Go-Gat, also known as Everett Hatch and the band of Indians with which he is said to have entrenched himself to resist arrest. Hatch was indicted by the United States grand jury in October charged with the murder last March of John Chacon, a Mexican, on the Ute reservation.

The ninety mile trip over rugged country to Bluff is expected to take several days. Somewhere on the road the posse is to be joined by a Utah force under United States Marshal Aquila Nebeker, of Salt Lake City who will take command of the combined party. Leaders of the Colorado contingent said their plan was to capture Hatch and his braves by siege or strategy rather than in battle.

FRENCH WANT LOANS TO
BUSINESS RUINED BY WAR

PARIS, Feb. 17.—A bill providing for a credit of \$100,000,000 from which loans can be made to small business interests ruined by the war will be introduced in the chamber of deputies.

HOLY WAR FACT ASSERTS LEADER

Christians are Enemies of Mus-
sulmen World Says
Talaat Bey.

IS NOT A TOOL OF GERMANY

Empire Declared War When
Forced to By Russians
and English.

CONSTANTINOPLE, via London, Feb. 17.—Turkey declared war without being urged by Germany or influenced by another influence save those of the empire, said Talaat Bey today in a statement to the Associated Press made in reply to questions concerning the political and military situation in his country.

Talaat Bey today fills the post of minister of interior, minister of finance and minister of marine in the Turkish cabinet. Two weeks ago, in addition to these offices he was also minister of war, which gave him the four most important portfolios in the administration. He is a young Turk and undoubtedly the most important man in Turkey at the present time. His advice is heeded everywhere and he virtually directs the public affairs of the Ottoman empire.

Holy War a Fact.

"Turkey engaged in military operations," he continued, "only when actions on the part of Russia and Great Britain made defensive measures necessary and today Turkey has taken all steps useful to carry on the war. The holy war is not menacing Christians, but the holy war is a fact which the enemies of the Mohammedan world should bear in mind. Christians in the Ottoman empire who are participating in the hostilities in their countries are not suffering from conditions brought about by the present state of affairs and any statements to the contrary are a result of British, French and Russian intrigues; the purpose of which is to direct against Turkey the pressure of neutral countries of lower standing in the Ottoman world."

To the correspondent, Talaat Bey complained of the attitude of foreign newspapers, including the American press, which he said were oblivious alike of the position of Turkey under the pressure of the entente powers and the efforts of the Young Turks to accomplish the reforms associated with that party.

"On land and sea the Russians and the British provoked hostilities," he (Continued on Last Page.)

UNDERSTANDING YET HOPED FOR

Officials Admit Diplomatic Situation
With England and Germany Is
Grave; Notes May Aid Settlement.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Government officials today had unofficial advice from London indicating there was little likelihood that Great Britain would accept Germany's proposal to withdraw her threat of submarine blockade against England if the latter would permit the free movement of food stuffs to the civil population of Germany.

Germany's proposal was laid before the British foreign office yesterday by Ambassador Page at London. The same advice states further that Great Britain was preparing to put into effect still more rigorous measures to prevent Germany from receiving food supplies from other nations. Only a few hours now remain before Germany's sea war zone proclamation is scheduled to go into effect. In the meantime administration officials continue keenly to await the formal replies of Great Britain and Germany to the recent notes regarding the use of neutral flags, the submarine campaign on merchant vessels and the shipment of foodstuffs to Germany.

While high officials admit the gravity of the diplomatic situation, they were hopeful today an understanding on the question of foodstuffs would be reached whereby Germany's alleged necessity for making war on enemy merchant ships might be avoided.

BRITISH REPLY HERE

Seven Thousand Word Answer of Eng-
land Regarding Neutral Rights
Will Be Made Public Tomorrow.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Great Britain's reply to the American note of December 26, protesting against interference with United States commerce, was being prepared at the state department today for publication. The full text of the document, containing approximately seven thousand words, will be given out simultaneously here and in London tonight for publication in tomorrow morning's papers.

The British note in addition to giving statistics on neutral commerce and making a general denial of any unwarranted interference with legitimate government decrees taking over the flour and grain supply in Germany required added precautions on the part of the allies that conditioned the armed forces of the enemy.

FRENCH WANT LOANS TO BUSINESS RUINED BY WAR

PARIS, Feb. 17.—A bill providing for a credit of \$100,000,000 from which loans can be made to small business interests ruined by the war will be introduced in the chamber of deputies.